



# Through the Bible in a Year

a chronological study of the Bible for women

Num. 22-36

Week 10

## Daily Reading Plan:

- \_\_\_ Num.22-24
- \_\_\_ Num.25-26
- \_\_\_ Num.27-30
- \_\_\_ Num.31-32
- \_\_\_ Num.33-34
- \_\_\_ Num.35-36
- \_\_\_ REST\*

\*Use this day to meditate on the week's Scripture reading. If needed, use it to catch up or read ahead.

**Next week:**  
**Deut.1-23**

MEMORY VERSE:

**"But if you fail to  
do this, you will be  
sinning against the  
Lord; and you may  
be sure that your sin  
will find you out.**

**Numbers 32:23**

## THE POWER OF A WOMAN'S INFLUENCE Num.25&27

In this section, we have two amazing examples of the power of a woman's influence; one is for good, and the other is for evil. Don't doubt for a minute, ladies, that each and every one of us is very capable of both. The thing we have to determine from the start is whether we will exercise power simply to show we can, or whether we actually want to use it to bring benefit to others. Too often, I see women fall into one of two mistakes when it comes to the topic of power.

The first is when women assume that a godly woman is totally subservient to the powers that be. We can use our "godliness" as an excuse to not exercise the power that God meant us to have. We can turn a blind eye to things that are **wrong** in the name of submission. We can feel helpless because we aren't men instead of powerful in our God ordained role as women.

The second mistake is when we seek the power that God has given to men so that we can prove ourselves "equal" and immune from the inevitability of harmful misuses of power. Women who try to be men forfeit the power that is truly theirs, much like the dog holding a bone who seeing its reflection in the water drops the bone it has in its teeth in favor of the elusive bone in the reflection. We lose what we already have trying to attain what isn't ours.

The Midianites knew the influential power of a woman, and used that influence to corrupt the Israelite camp, enticing them to participate in worshipping the Baal of Peor. Where the military forces and sorcerers failed, the foreign women succeeded. Had it not been for swift and severe action against these women, and those who succumbed to them, the entire camp may have fallen. Where were the Israelite women when all this was happening? Did they feel powerless to do anything about things that were wrong? What kept them from protesting?

In sharp contrast are the daughters of Zelophehad, of the tribe of Manasseh. Their father had no sons and so his name would not be preserved in the land they were soon to possess. They wanted the share of their father's inheritance in the Promised Land that was normally given only to the male descendants, so they brought their case before Moses. They did not assume that they were helpless to make a change because they were mere women, but neither did they lack respect for the authority and power of Moses. Moses in turn, brought their request before God who honored the boldness of these ladies by adding a provision for this and future cases to the law. One of the most powerful aspects of this story is that these women acted as if the acquisition of the Promised Land was a sure thing.

What gave them such confidence? \_\_\_\_\_

How did that impact their degree of influence? \_\_\_\_\_

Heart failure is the number one killer of both men and women in the United States with 500,000 deaths each year. Worldwide, 7.2 million people die from heart disease each year. Because it can be so deadly, heart trouble gets our attention. When a problem is suspected, an angiogram is done to look at the condition of the vessels, to see if blood is flowing properly. If there is a blockage, or if there has been previous heart damage, we are told what capacity the heart is functioning at. The ideal, of course, is to be at 100% with our whole heart efficiently beating 100,000 times a day, pumping 6 quarts of blood through some 60,000 miles of vessels (20 times the distance across the U.S.) every day and without fail. It is an amazing, and vital, organ. We are learning more and more about the heart and the causes of heart disease, things our Creator already knows. For example, genes are being identified that predispose some people to heart disease. Diet and lifestyle factors are taught even to my grade school children. We give a great deal of attention to the condition of our heart, because we understand that an even partially compromised heart and even a minimal blockage can lead to sudden death.

The most common cause of heart attacks is for junk to build up that eventually can rupture and crack the artery wall and cause the formation of a clot that plugs the flow of oxygen and nutrients to the heart muscle. When the pump stops pumping, we are in serious trouble.

It's no surprise then, that the condition of our life is often described in terms of the condition of our heart.

What do these common phrases mean?

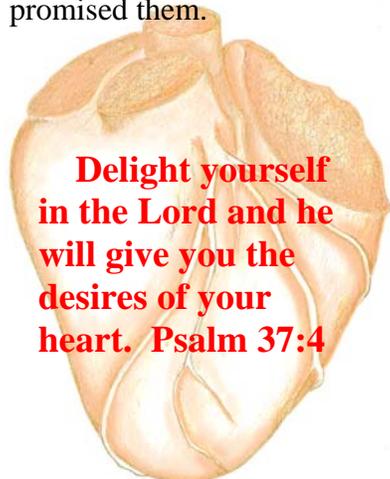
Heavy hearted _____	Broken hearted _____
Hard hearted _____	Half hearted _____
Take heart _____	Light hearted _____
Fainthearted _____	Kind hearted _____

How did God describe Joshua and Caleb in Num. 32:12? \_\_\_\_\_

What is some of the "junk" that can build up in our hearts and keep us from following God 100% wholeheartedly? \_\_\_\_\_

Why was Moses angry with the Gadites and Reubenites in Num. 32? \_\_\_\_\_

These two tribes seemed to feel that a bird in the hand was worth two in the bush. They would rather settle for the good land that they could see, and have NOW, than take their chances on what God had promised them.



Were they following God wholeheartedly? \_\_\_\_\_  
Looking back in your life, what are some ways you have settled for an inferior good rather than God's best? \_\_\_\_\_

Do you think it was more because of impatience, or because of a lack of trust in God's good plans for you? \_\_\_\_\_

What are the desires of your heart? \_\_\_\_\_  
What are the diseases of your heart? \_\_\_\_\_

Information from National Geographic Magazine February 2007 issue

## BALAAM

Balak, king of Moab was frightened of the approaching Israelite army. Guess they didn't look like grasshoppers to him, because he thought he was going to need something besides mere physical resources to fight this formidable foe. So he sent for Balaam (the earliest person mentioned in the Bible that is also mentioned in an archeological source) to put a supernatural curse on Israel. The word used here for curse is *qabab* which means to bind, reduce ability, or render powerless. Balak believed he could only be victorious over Israel if they were fighting with a supernatural equivalent of one arm tied behind their back. I wonder if Balak understood the supernatural nature of Israel's strength and felt like the only way to fight fire was with fire. In any case, Balak's weapon of choice was sorcery rather than military might. He was actually on the right track, just the wrong direction.

Balaam seems to have knowledge of and even a certain respect for God. Initially, God spoke to Balaam and instructed him to not go with Balak's men.

What prompted Balaam to ask God again?

When God allowed him to go, what restriction did He place on Balaam? \_\_\_\_\_

In Num. 23 & 24, what happened to Balaam's "curses"? \_\_\_\_\_

What are some curses that are directed toward us? \_\_\_\_\_

In what ways do we allow them to bind us? \_\_\_\_\_

What does the New Testament say about Balaam in these passages?

2 Peter 2:15 \_\_\_\_\_

Jude 11 \_\_\_\_\_

Rev. 2:14 \_\_\_\_\_

What strategy of Balaam's finally proved effective against the Israelites? Num. 25 & 31:16

## THE CENSUS, AGAIN Num.26

Record the results of the first and second census in the table below. Mark whether their number increased (+) or decreased (-).

+/-	Tribe	Num. 1	Num. 26
	Reuben	46,500	
	Simeon		
	Gad		
	Judah		
	Issachar		
	Zebulun		
	Manasseh		
	Ephraim		
	Benjamin		

Which tribe showed a drastic decrease in their number?

What event had taken place just before the second census? \_\_\_\_\_

Who was the named offender in this event, and what tribe was he from? \_\_\_\_\_

What explanation is given in 26:8-11 for a decrease in Reuben's tribe? \_\_\_\_\_

Go back to Genesis 49. How do we see these "blessings" playing out? \_\_\_\_\_

### Across

5. name of a priest 31:21
7. Zur's daughter 25:15
8. the Israelites joined the Moabites in this worship 25:3
10. additional offerings made on this day 28:10
11. two young bulls, one ram and seven male lambs offered this often 28:11
12. counting of the people 26:2
15. third place Balaam was taken to 23:28
17. purified by fire and \_\_\_\_\_ 31:23
20. tribe who settled for land that was not God's promise 32:4-6
21. taken on the Midianites 31:1
25. number of cities of refuge 35:6
27. had 23,000 over a month old 26:62
28. name of Asher's daughter 26:46
30. can nullify a woman's vow 30:8
32. sound on the first day of the seventh month 29:1
33. chapter 30 makes provisions for these
35. would be treated as enemies 25:17
39. Moses was angry with them 31:14
41. spoke to Balaam 22:28
43. came upon Balaam 24:2
44. number of times Balaam blessed the Israelites 24:10
45. father of Gilead 26:29
46. Balak was king of 22:4

### Down

1. town to be given to the Israelites 35:2
2. penalty for Baal worship 25:5
3. Balak sent for 22:5
4. second mountain Balak took Balaam to 23:14
6. tribe the Perezite clan was a part of 26:19,20
9. fourteenth day of the first month 28:16
13. followed the Lord wholeheartedly 32:12
14. SPECIAL CITIES TO BE SAFE 34:18
15. killed 24,000 25:9
16. day for offering of new grain 28:26
18. month of the Day of Atonement 29:7
19. his daughters claimed land for him 27:1-4
22. killed Zimri and Cozbi 25:7,14-15
23. Zimri's tribe 25:14
24. two of these without defect offered each day 28:3
26. from Balaam instead of curses 23:11
27. Israel like this animal 24:9
29. to make atonement 28:30
31. what the Israelites were to do with carved images and cast idols. 33:52
34. Israel has the strength of one 23:22
36. had 32,500 in the second census 26:37
37. new leader for God's people 27:18-20
38. Reuben who led rebellion 25:9
40. 32,000 of these taken as plunder 31:33
42. "God is not a man that he should \_\_\_\_\_ 23:19
43. will come out of Jacob 24:17

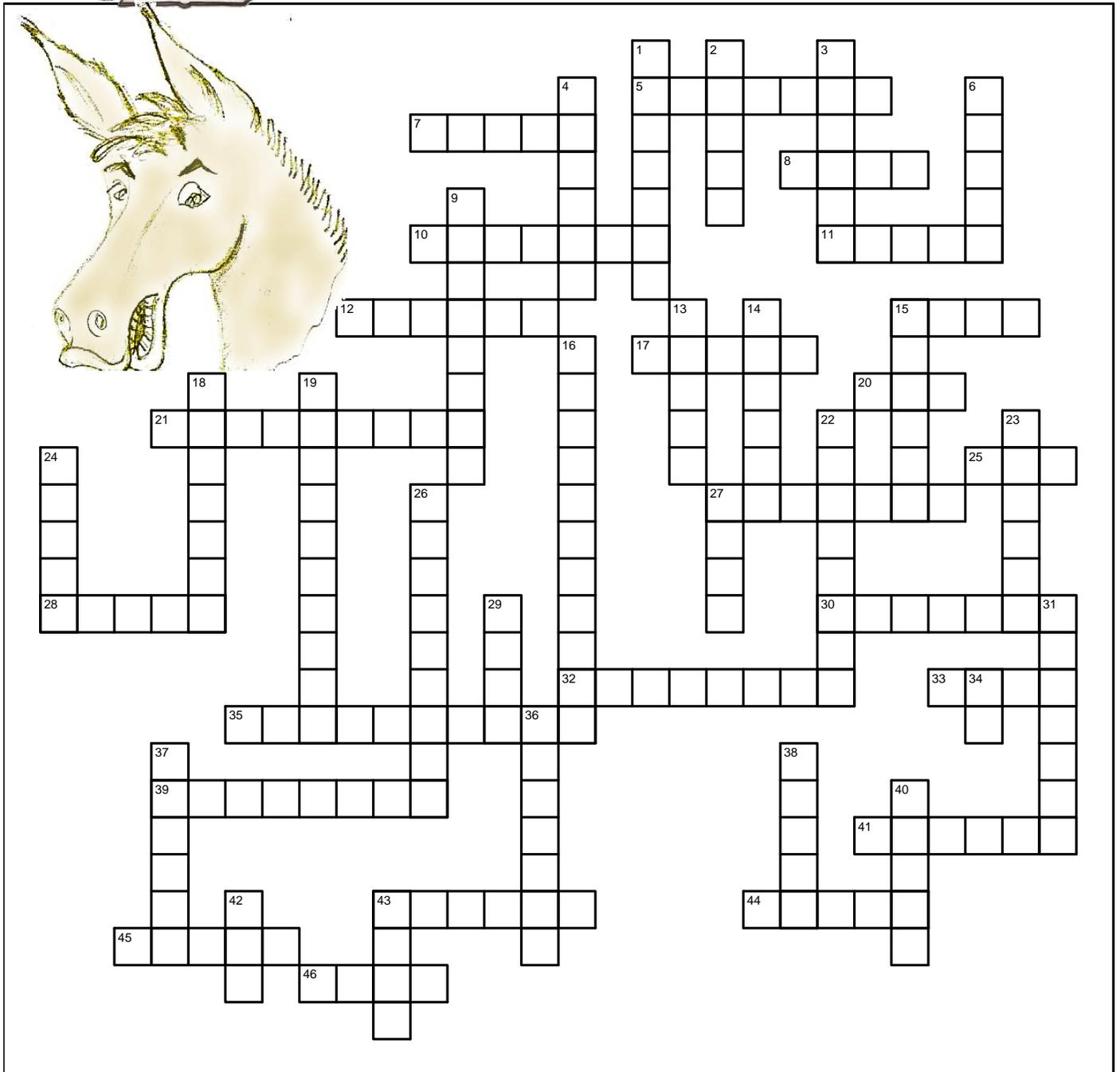
For comments or questions, contact me at [victoryrd@hotmail.com](mailto:victoryrd@hotmail.com) or for more studies visit [www.downvictoryrd.com](http://www.downvictoryrd.com)





# PUZZLE PAGE

Numbers 22-36



## **A WOMAN'S VOW** Num. 30

It seems strange to us that a father or husband would have the power to prevent their daughters or wives from keeping a vow made to God. What we need to recognize is that 1. this actually provided protection for the woman, placing the burden of responsibility on the men for whatever consequences might come and 2. God is demonstrating the importance of relationship which at times supersedes even a vow made to Him.

## A GOD FOR ALL PEOPLE Num.22-24

Do you find it surprising that God spoke to Balaam? Don't forget that from the very beginning God's connection was to be with the entire earth. The purpose of pulling aside a chosen people was so **all** the people on earth would be blessed through them. (Gen 12:3) Those who blessed Abraham and his descendants would be blessed and those that cursed them would be cursed. Sounds a lot like what Balaam said in Num.24:9. Another interesting thing about this prophetic statement is that while the Hebrew refers to the blessing and cursing of Israel in the plural, as a nation, the resulting blessings and curses are in the singular. Individuals are held accountable for themselves, no matter what the attitude of the culture around them is. This is a huge point for us to keep in mind as we move into the conquest of the Promised Land and see the emergence of individuals who gain God's blessing, as well as the destruction of those who refuse Him.

## ATTACKING THE SCARY

Num. 22:2-9

I find it very true to human nature that the things that seem like the biggest threat to us are based mainly on our perceptions rather than on reality. We see this happening with the Moabites. Moab was the great nephew of Abraham, son of Lot (Gen.19:37). God actually told the Israelites **not** to attack the Moabites or take their land, but the Moabites saw this huge nation coming their way as a threat. They were terrified of what was in store for them. They knew the victories that Israel had had over its enemies. They assumed that they were to be the next target, when what the Israelites really wanted was peaceful passage. The Moabites' misperception was their own worst enemy, causing them to take action against the Israelites that would bring catastrophe. The descendants of Lot (Moabites) allied themselves with the descendants of Abraham (Midianites, see Gen. 25:2) and the people of Moses' own wife, in actions that needlessly cost many lives.

How do you approach things that seem scary?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

People that are different than us, or seem more powerful than us can be intimidating. Do you tend to "attack" first because you think they might attack you? \_\_\_\_\_

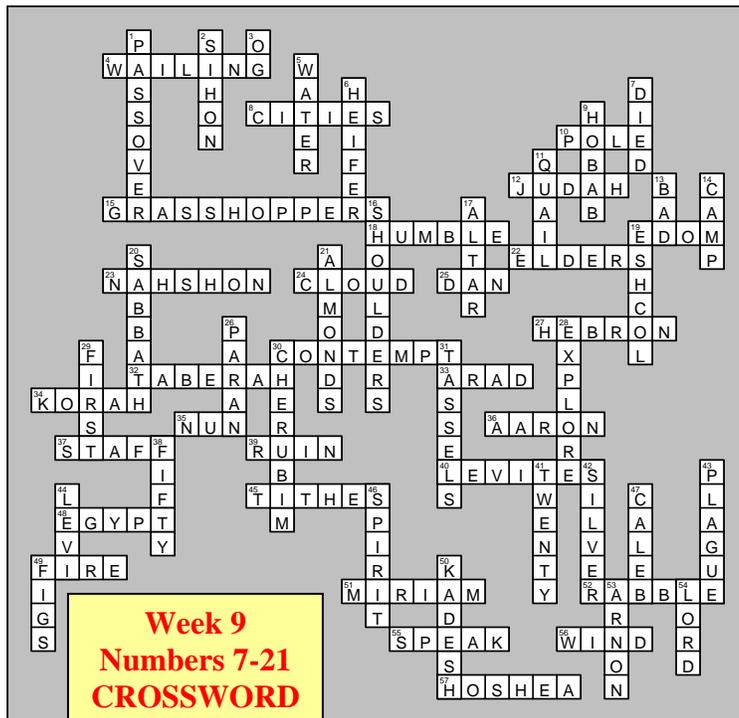
Have your misperceptions ever gotten you in big trouble? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

## "JOURNEY BY STAGES" Num.33

In chapter 33 we get a step by step report of the journey of the Israelites as they came out of Egypt. It's like a review of where they have come from, and what they have gone through to get where they are now. But there has been so much more involved in their journey of development than a mere list of locations. We have seen rebellion and grumbling and faith and fear and reluctance and courage and devotion and commitment. We have seen subtle changes that seem as minute as a camping stop, but added together show the spiritual maturing of a nation. We see attitudes being taught; toward women, aliens and slaves, as well as toward God's holiness. Social and spiritual transformation takes time, then as now. Israel had no shortage of dramatic and revolutionary events, but I think perhaps the really significant changes happened little by little in a "journey by stages".



**Week 9**  
**Numbers 7-21**  
**CROSSWORD**  
**Answers**